

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2585

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

S E C R E T MANILA 5250

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: GOP CONCERN OVER NVN INCURSION INTO SPRATLEY AREA

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED "SECRET" NOTE APR 22 FROM DFA ADVISING U.S. "AS AN ALLY UNDER THE SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION" OF THE NVN ACTION AGAINST THE SVN ON PUGAD (SOUTHWEST CAY).

2. NOTE STATES QUOTE: THAT TROOPS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN KALAYAAN PARTICULARLY IN PAROLA (NORTHEAST CAY) HAVE BEEN ON ALERT STATUS SINCE APRIL 14, 1975 WHEN NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES LAUNCHED AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AT PUGAD ISLAND. PAROLA ISLAND WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY TROOPS OF THE PHILIPPINES IS APPROXIMATELY 1.6 MILES NORTH OF PUGAD. ON APRIL 19, 1975, ONE SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN ONE SOUTHVIETNAMESE SOLDIER AT PUGAD DEFECTED TO PHILIPPINE TROOPS IN PAROLA. END QUOTE.

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3. NOTE APPENDS ANNEX OF "SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS" WHICH

DETAILS ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING NVN INCURSION, DEFEAT OF SVN TROOPS ON PUGAD WHO ALLEGEDLY TAKEN TO DANANG, AND SUBSEQUENT BUILD UP OF NVN FORTIFICATIONS ON SIDE OF PUGAD FACING PAROLA WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY GOP. ANNEX ENDS WITH STATEMENT THAT THE ONE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHO ESCAPED, NYUGEN HUNG, SAID HE HAD OVERHEARD THAT NVN "WILL ATTACK PAROLA 21 APRIL AS SOON AS THEIR SHIPS ARRIVE FROM THE MAINLAND." NOTE AND ANNEX BEING POUCHED.

4. COMMENT: GOP HAS BROUGHT NVN ACTION TO OUR ATTENTION IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS THIS WEEK. BRIG. GENERAL PAZ ASKED VISITING MG AARON, ACSI, DA, WHAT U.S. WOULD DO IF NVN ATTACKED GOP "FORCES," EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING AT AARON'S NONCOMMITTAL REPLY BY SAYING MATTER WAS POLITICAL. DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE WENT INTO MATTER IN SOME DETAIL WITH VISITOR COUNTRY DIRECTOR FLECK BUT DID NOT ASK HOW U.S. WOULD RESPOND. DFA NOTE, REFERRING SOMEWHAT UNUSUALLY TO U.S. AS SEATO ALLY, SKIRTS QUESTION TO SOME EXTENT BY "INFORMING" US BUT NEVERTHELESS PUTTING ISSUE IN CONTEXT OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY. ALL APPROACHES HIGHLIGHT GRAVE CONCERN WITH WHICH GOP VIEWS NVN ACTION AND ITS POTENTIAL THREAT TO GOP FORCES ON AND CLAIM TO SPRATLEY ISLANDS. THEY ALSO HIGHLIGHT FACT THAT WE HAVE STILL TO RESOLVE WHAT U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE TOWARDS PROBLEM IN VIEW ARTICLE V OF MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

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